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Federal Communications Commission

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Washington, D. C. 20554

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AUTHORIZES VERIZON TO PROVIDE LONG DISTANCE SERVICE IN DELAWARE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that it voted to approve Verizon's application to provide in-region, interLATA service originating in Delaware and New Hampshire. Approval of Verizon's joint application promises benefits to consumers in Delaware and New Hampshire by making increased competition in all markets for telecommunications services possible.

According to Verizon, competing carriers serve approximately 49,300 lines in Delaware and approximately 144,000 lines in New Hampshire.

With the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), Congress envisioned fundamental, pro-competitive changes in the telecommunications markets by making a Bell Operating Company's (BOC) entry into the long distance market subject to the BOC first opening its local service monopoly to competition. A BOC satisfies this condition by demonstrating compliance with section 271 of the 1996 Act. After a BOC files a section 271 long distance application with the FCC, the FCC has 90 days to determine whether a BOC has taken the statutorily required steps to open its local telecommunications markets to competition, including compliance with the 1996 Act's section 271 14-point "competitive checklist."

Since the passage of the 1996 Act, the FCC has now approved applications to provide in-region, long distance service in 22 states and denied five long distance applications. Additionally, applications for 16 states have been withdrawn. Currently, there are section 271 applications for four states – Verizon's Virginia application, SBC's California application and BellSouth's joint application for Tennessee and Florida – pending before the Commission. A summary of all section 271 applications can be accessed at the following FCC web page:

www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/in-region_applications/

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The FCC emphasizes that Verizon must continue to comply with the section 271 checklist requirements, and the Commission has a number of enforcement tools at its disposal to ensure compliance, including imposing penalties or suspension of approval.

-FCC-

Docket No.: WC 02-157

Action by the Commission September 25, 2002, by Report and Order (FCC 02-262). Chairman Powell issuing a statement; Commissioner Copps and Martin approving in part, concurring in part, and issuing separate statements.

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News about the Federal Communications Commission can also be found on the Commission's web site www.fcc.gov.